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DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1900.

The attitude of the Coast people with regard to the plague is very conservative, and from all that has been received we need have no fear about our sugars being refused. This is another bright ray piercing our dark cloud.

Japan is not entirely a unit upon its policy with regard to Russia. Russian influence can be seen in a number of vernacular papers, but the Japanese government shows that it fears Russia and that it is willing to fight rather than be too seriously thwarted.

It is satisfactory to hear that Lieutenant Gilmore and his party have at length been rescued from the clutches of the Filipinos. They have had a weary captivity and have been in constant danger of being killed by their captors. The Lieutenant will have a thrilling tale to tell when he returns to his native land.

A Japanese theatrical company is to go to the Paris exhibition. In this there is nothing very surprising. But the curiosity lies in the fact that the Japanese company will be able to play, in French, translations of the Japanese classic drama, such as the "Loyal Ronin," while on the other hand they are prepared to play several translations of Moliere's comedies in Japanese. The latter will be remarkably funny for the Parisians.

The plague in Japan seems to be making considerable headway. But the Japanese are not taking such heroic measures as we have done. It is very doubtful whether any country on earth has fought the plague as we have fought it, but then we have determined to kill it, other countries have, as a rule, striven to tide it over. If our Board of Health succeeds it means that plague can never gain a footing on these shores again.

The decision come to by the Board of Health to burn out the mass of shacks at the corner of King and Merchant street is commendable. It has been a disgrace to the city. The Board should take a look at the property on King street behind the express offices. As no case of plague has occurred the Board could not burn down the buildings, but they could be condemned as unfit for human habitation, and the owners be forced to put the block into proper sanitary condition.

It looks very much as if the twentieth century controversy had been thrashed out. Each side has had a great deal to say, and each side is perfectly satisfied that it is right. The same controversy occurred at the commencement of the century now in its last year, and most probably—unless human nature is much changed—will be a theme of controversy at the end of the century which commences in 1901. The matter is really a purely academic one, and usage has settled it long ago as far as history goes. Events happening in 800, 900, or 1000, are counted not in the succeeding centuries, but in the centuries which those years close.

HAWAII IN CONGRESS.

The action of the Senate Committee in regard to Senator Cullom's Bill is certainly very favorable to the Islands. The confirmation of all land transactions since annexation is recommended. This is of the highest importance. There will be close scrutiny of this section when the bill comes up for discussion, but the friends of the measure are strong and there is every hope that this section will be confirmed.

The tenure of office of Justices of the Supreme Court for nine years is an amendment which will meet the approval of many who objected to the life tenure as originally proposed. Another amendment recommends the appointment of a United States District Judge.

This news is extremely encouraging. Of course the passage of a bill through committee does not ensure its final passage, but to have it favorably reported on, with amendments which will meet with general approval here, is certainly a step in advance.

It is also gratifying to see that the bill relating to the commerce, navigation and merchant seamen is being pushed along. If this passes, as it now stands, all vessels owned by Hawaiian citizens previous to annexation will receive American registration, but vessels acquired after annexation are not to receive American registration. This will throw out a number of vessels now flying the Hawaiian flag provisionally.

Take it all in all the prospects are brighter than they have been, and in spite of the gloomy prospect which seemed to loom before us, there is evidently some hope that our organic law may come soon. In these dark days Hawaii wants every ray of comfort that it can get.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The situation in South Africa does not seem to have changed materially. There is probability that Buller is preparing for another attempt upon the Tugela River, but whether that would come soon or be delayed till further reinforcements reach him, the dispatches fail to say. Unless he makes a move soon he will be unable to retrieve his reputation before Lord Roberts takes supreme command.

Baden-Powell made a gallant attack upon a Boer fort which commanded Mafeking, but was unable to storm it, and lost heavily in the attempt. It looks as if the British troops were constantly being hurled at positions which it is impossible to take, and the effort costs countless lives for very little purpose.

It seems doubtful whether we shall get any decisive news even when the Australia arrives. The Boers are strong in defensive warfare, but up to the present they do not seem to be strong in offensive operations. The garrisons of the three beleaguered towns seem to hold their own very tenaciously. It is now past mid-summer in South Africa and the feed must be beginning to fail somewhat, the water of the Tugela must also be getting lower. All this is in favor of the British.

OPEN TO COMMENT.

The attitude of the Chinese Consul Yang Wei Pin, under the present circumstances is open to comment. It is very evident that he does not understand the situation. It is a matter of life and death to this community to stamp out the plague, and in no other way can it be stamped out than by what the Board of Health is doing.

Mr. Pin thinks that the Chinese are being discriminated against and that it has been wrong to shut the Chinatown inhabitants up in their district. As far as the inhabitants of the infected district are concerned, the authorities have done all in their power to get the inhabitants out as fast as shelter could be found for them elsewhere.

The Board would have been criminally negligent had it not acted in the way it did. Had the population of the district been allowed to fly from it indiscriminately, instead of holding the disease within a circle and coping with it in a scientific manner, we should have had cases of plague breaking out in Waiakua and Waimanalo and goodness knows where. That the position of the unfortunates within the infected district is hard, no one can deny, but it is a case not of injustice by our officials, but of misfortune which must be borne as any public calamity, earthquake conflagration, tornado or what not.

The Board of Health and the citizens desire to do full justice to the Chinese. But the Board has to be extra careful in the matter of Chinese goods, for it is undoubtedly through infected goods that the plague was introduced, and these goods undoubtedly came from the Orient.

Then again the talk of discrimination cannot be sustained. When it was decided to burn down block ten, the Louvre shared the fate of the other buildings, and there was no Chinese ownership of that establishment. The Consul certainly has failed to grasp the condition of affairs. He is viewing the position from the Oriental standpoint. In China there is always more or less plague. It is endemic. The people of Honolulu do not intend that it shall be endemic here, no matter what the cost may be to stamp it out, and the cost is going to be very heavy.

HEART DISEASE.

A man employed at Waiakua plantation died of aneurism of the heart.

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